

**MANITOWOC COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT
BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

CALL TO ORDER:

The Manitowoc County Human Services Department Board met at 4:22 p.m. on Thursday, August 26, 2021 immediately following the Public Hearing meeting in open session at the Manitowoc County Human Services Department, 801 Jay Street, Manitowoc, WI.

Board Members Present: Agnew, Baumann, Burke, Cavanaugh, Nasep, Shimulunas, Williams.

Board Members Excused: Henrickson, Ruggirello.

Board Members Absent: None.

County Board Members Present: None.

County Staff Present: Dodge, Fure, Joas, Randolph, Ziegelbauer.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No public comment.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A MOTION WAS MADE BY BAUMANN, SECONDED BY WILLIAMS TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS REGULAR MEETING. MOTION CARRIED.

EDUCATION TOPIC:

Lori Fure, Clinical Services Deputy Director, presented information on the renewal of the State Opioid Response Grant #2 and plans for its use.

From Oct 1 2019-2020 we received a total of \$137, 503 to serve an additional 60 people with an opioid diagnosis. We actually served 78 new clients with an opioid diagnosis. Total clients served with any SUD diagnosis was 490.

From Oct 1 2020-2021 we were awarded \$806,600. We needed to see 70 new clients with an OUD this year. So far we served at least 62 new clients with an OUD, total of 112 with an OUD and estimated 560 total all SUD.

This year we are asking for \$810,950. The state wants us to lower the request. This is mainly because the new grant, SOR 2 includes methadone services, so more counties are requesting funds. The other issue is that in 2019 Manitowoc County had 11 overdose deaths and in 2020 there were 16. We would argue that had it not been for the measures we took that number would be much higher. Other new requirements include increased tracking, new questionnaires, Hepatitis C screening, and HIV screens.

Services provided with the grant include: Case Management – to coordinate services including detox, residential, day treatment, transitional recovery housing, Peer Support Specialists/Recovery Coaches with a local provider to transport people to treatments, provide employment coaching, set educational goals, obtain permanent housing, follow through with medical care, and teach independent living skills.

Intensive Outpatient – 3 hours of therapy 3 days per week for 7 weeks. Each client also gets an hour of 1:1 counseling per week. Matrix model is an evidenced based practice that integrates several research-based techniques (including cognitive-behavioral, 12 Step, and motivational enhancement) to target clients' behavioral, emotional, cognitive, and relationship issues.

Moral Reconciliation Therapy® is the premiere cognitive-behavioral treatment program for substance abuse and offender populations. Developed in 1985, over 200 published outcome studies have documented that MRT-treated offenders show significantly lower recidivism for periods as long as 20 years after treatment. The term "moral" refers to moral reasoning based on Kohlberg's levels of cognitive reasoning. The word "reconciliation" comes from the psychological terms "conative" and "cognition," both of which refer to the process of making conscious decisions. MRT is a cognitive-behavioral treatment system that leads to enhanced moral reasoning, better decision making, and more appropriate behavior.

Recovery Management: 2 hours one day per week. We use Seeking Safety which is an evidence based treatment model for trauma and addiction. There are 25 coping skills taught in Seeking Safety. Every skill applies to both trauma and addiction simultaneously. Some categories of skills include: Setting Boundaries in Relationships, Honesty, Compassion, Healing from Anger, and Recovery Thinking. The main aim of these skills is to help patients attain safety in their relationships, thinking, behavior, and emotions.

Psychotherapy: treatment of trauma - Harm reduction means treating people where they are at. They need to be able to survive long enough to reach abstinence. We see people 1:1 for education and motivational interviewing until they are ready for treatment.

Questions from Board members: How does a person get into the program? A lot of people are referred through our crisis services, emergency rooms and detentions. Several referrals come from Child Welfare staff who have parents with SUD issues. We use 2 crisis beds to help stabilize the person and get an assessment. People also refer themselves. In the past there were mostly mental health self referrals but this past year it was mainly SUD treatment requests. We just opened a new service to schedule emergency assessment slots.

Is the state looking at the correlation of Hepatitis C to drug abuse? The state is collecting data regarding injection drug use. Once they receive this data, will the state look at increases in available treatment and funding for it? We don't have information on the state's plans.

FINANCIAL AND STATISTICAL REPORTS THROUGH JULY, 2021:

Children in out of home placement numbers continue to increase.

The Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program begins on October 1st. Notices will be sent in September.

Question from a Board member: Why is there an increase in Food Share recipients when there are many jobs available? During Covid the 6 month review requirement was waived. Now that is back in place so there should be a decrease in eligible participants.

QUESTIONS AND INPUT FROM BOARD MEMBERS ON THE STATUS OF THE HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT:

At the June HSD Board meeting there was a question on why the secure detention days really went up. There were 4 unrelated cases where we had youth in detention in May. A few of them were longer term stays due to the severity of the incidents such as someone having a gun outside a local high school. This required a longer stay while the case went through court and services were put in place.

Is there any progress on filling the Coordinated Services Team coordinator position? There were 15 applicants and only 1 was qualified to interview.

With the estimated 3 million undocumented people in the United States, should we set aside money for unexpected expenses? After discussion, it was decided not so set aside funding at this time.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT OF AGENCY OPERATIONS:

1. The Children and Families Allocation work group for the Wisconsin County Human Services Association has completed the review of funding allocation methods that had been set up years ago. Several factors were considered when we were determining how funding should be redistributed including using a 95% hold harmless method, a 50/50 allocation considering poverty level and those in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or others such as child population.

After polling all of the county Human Services Departments in Wisconsin, the majority agreed that they were not willing to agree to a redistribution process if they were going to lose part of their allocation. The group is willing to look at future increases in the allocation to ensure an equitable distribution.

2. Staffing: We have been recruiting for various positions throughout the year and are dealing with a lack of applicants as well as people who declined our offers.

Current vacancies are: Economic Support Specialist, CCS Supervisor, CST Coordinator, CFS Ongoing Social Worker, Parent Support Worker limited term, and Transportation Specialists.

3. We are requesting a variety of new positions in the 2022 budget to meet the increased demands for services. We are planning for more use of the county office complex space as well as sharing office space since we have run out of room in the 8th Street building.
4. The foster care team received 75 county fair tickets that were donated by Braun Excavating. The foster families appreciated the tickets.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

The next regular meeting of the Human Services Department Board will be held on Thursday, September 23, 2021 at 4:45 p.m. The meeting will be held in the 8th Street building at the 801 Jay Street entrance.

ADJOURNMENT:

A MOTION WAS MADE BY WILLIAMS, SECONDED BY BAUMANN TO ADJOURN THE MEETING OF THE HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT BOARD AT 5:16 P.M. MOTION CARRIED.